

Order of Service
6th Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

Opening Hymn: ELH 351 vs. 1, 8

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives,
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

The Confession of Sins

C: Lord, we confess our sins before you. As David said, so we say: "I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely, I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." In light of our lost and shameful condition, we also pray the words of King David, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

The Absolution

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, be assured that what Jesus came to do has been done! He paid for your sins, each and every one of them, in His suffering and death on the cross. Your sins are forgiven! Furthermore, Christ's resurrection from the grave proves that His payment for us was perfect and complete, a sacrifice wholly acceptable to the Father. Because of what Christ Jesus has done, know that peace with God has been restored to you as a gift, and that you will live forever in Paradise. Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. Amen.

The Collect (The Prayer of the Day)

P: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will. We ask for this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 17: 22-31

(Paul preaches before the meeting of the Areopagus in Athens. To these *pagan Greeks the apostle proclaims the “unknown God”* - the God who made the world and who calls all people to repentance and faith in the One whom he raised from the dead.)

22 Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. 23 For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. 25 Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. 26 From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. 27 He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’

29 “Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. 30 Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Psalm 66

P: Shout praise to God, all the earth!

C: Make music to the glory of his name!

P: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"

C: Because of your great power your enemies must cower before you.

P: All the earth bows down to you. They make music to you.

C: Come and see the works of God.

P: He turned the sea into dry land.

C: They crossed through the river on foot.

All: Let the sound of his praise be heard.

Congregational Response: ELH 403 vs. 1 - 3

God loved the world so that He gave

His only Son the lost to save

That all who would in Him believe

Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the Ground of faith,

Who was made flesh and suffered death;

All that confide in Him alone

Are built on this chief Cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die,

His Son with saving grace is nigh;

His spirit in the Word doth teach

How man the blessed goal may reach.

The Gospel: John 14:15-21

(Jesus' farewell discourse continues from the previous week. The Holy Spirit is promised to the disciples, and they are comforted by the Lord's promise: that he will not leave them orphaned but will return to them. Jesus exhorts them to show love for their Lord by giving loving obedience to his commands.)

15 "If you love me, hold on to my commands. 16 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him."

The Confession of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Sermonette

Sermon Hymn: ELH 368 vs. 1, 2

(Tune CW 207)

"The Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is"

The Lord my faithful Shepherd is,
And me He safely guideth;
I shall not want, for I am His
Who all things good provideth.
I follow Him, I hear His voice,
In Him my Lord I do rejoice—
Blest am I in His keeping!

A tender shepherd leads his sheep
Where pastures green are growing,
And there His flock doth guard and keep
Beside still waters flowing.
Thus Christ, my Shepherd, leadeth me,
My soul and body feedeth He
And for their wants provideth.

Sermon: Revelation 7:9-17 *“Our Risen Savior Does It All!”*

1. He’s Our Sacrificial Lamb

2. He’s Our Caring Shepherd

9 After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. 10 They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

11 All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

13 One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?” And I answered him, “Sir, you know.” 14 And he said to me: These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16 They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Hymn: ELH 369 vs. 1-4 (Tune St. Thomas)

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

O bless the Lord, my soul, His grace to thee proclaim.
And all that is within me join To bless His holy name.

O bless the Lord, my soul; His mercies bear in mind;
Forget not all His benefits: The Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide; He will with patience wait;
His wrath is ever slow to rise, And ready to abate.

He pardons all thy sins; Prolongs thy feeble breath;
He healeth thine infirmities, And ransoms thee from death.

Offering Prayer

I think upon my Savior, I trust His power to keep,
His mighty arm enfolds me Awaking and in sleep.
Christ is my Rock, my Courage; *Christ is my soul's true Life;*
And Christ—my still heart knows it—
Will bear me through the strife. Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

P: O Lord God, our Strength, our Song, and our Salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

P: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost. Drive out doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

C: Protect us from the evils of this life, especially the corona virus and all of its effects on our nation.

P: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

P: Make us instruments of your peace as we extend the good news of hope and new life to people around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures. Teach us to put your kingdom first.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring our private petitions to you.

Silent prayer

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With joyful hearts we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH 371 vs. 1, 3, 5

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,

Yet will I fear no ill;

For Thou art with me, and Thy rod

And staff me comfort still.

Goodness and mercy, all my life,

Shall surely follow me;

And in God's house forevermore

My dwelling place shall be.